Increase of Tele-density in rural areas

5366. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accused the private basic operators of not doing their share to meet the village telephone targets;

(b) if so, whether Government have directed private basic operators to chalk out a time bound action plan to increase the teledensity in the rural areas and provide effective services; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the private basic operators on the direction of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far Licensees have not given any definite indication of time-frame for achievement of their committed targets.

ISD/STD/PCO facilities in rural and agency areas in Andhra Pradesh

5367. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been extended to all the rural and agency areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) if not, by when these facilities will be made available to these facilities will be made available to these rural and agency areas where these facilities have not been extended in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Out of 29,460 villages in Andhra Pradesh 23,379 villages have been provided with telecom facilities (VPTs). Out of these VPTs 190 are having STD/ ISD facilities. In addition 4,934 STD/ISD PCOs in rural areas and 89 in agency areas are working. District-wise details of number of STD PCOs in rural and agency areas are enclosed as statement. (*See* below). All the Telephone exchanges in the State are having STD/ ISD facility and STD/ISD PCOs are provided on demand. The